

Ageratina adenophora

COMMON NAME

Mexican devil

SYNONYMS

Eupatorium adenophorum, *Eupatorium glandulosum*

FAMILY

Asteraceae

AUTHORITY

Ageratina adenophora (spreng.) R.M.King & H.Rob.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

NVS CODE

AGEADE

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

HABITAT

Terrestrial. Lightly shaded frost-free areas, e.g. forest edges, shrublands, wetlands, streamsides, open forest, inshore and offshore islands, gumlands, slips, alluvial flats, coast and estuaries.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FAC: Facultative

Commonly occurs as either a hydrophyte or non-hydrophyte (non-wetlands).

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Erect, many-stemmed herb to subshrub to 1-2 m. Perennial fibrous rootstock. Stems often die back in winter, densely covered in stalked sticky hairs, usually purple, becoming woody, with branches in opposite pairs, often with galls formed by parasitic fly. Leaves in opposite pairs, 55-80 x 35-70 mm, diamond-shaped, margins irregularly roundtoothed. Flowers small, white, 5-7 mm diam, in dense terminal clusters, Aug-Dec. Seeds black, 5- angled, 1.8 mm long.

SIMILAR TAXA

Can be distinguished from mist flower (*A. riparia*) by the broader leaf shape and stalked glandular hairs without stripes (DoC, 1998).

FLOWERING

August, September, October, November, December, January, February, March.

FLOWER COLOURS

White

FRUITING

Late Summer-Autumn? (Timmins & MacKenzie 1995).

YEAR NATURALISED

1931



Ageratina adenophora. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



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ORIGIN

Mexico

ETYMOLOGY

adenophora: From the Greek aden 'gland' and phoreo 'to bear'

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Ornamental.

LIFE CYCLE COMMENTS

Perennial. The plant has a life span of a few years and produces seed (Timmins & MacKenzie 1995) drooping stems can layer. Seed dispersal is by wind, water, vertebrates and road mowers.

TOLERANCES

The plant is intolerant to shade, frost and poor drainage(?) and tolerant to drought (Timmins & MacKenzie 1995).

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/ageratina-adenophora/>